

PESTICIDE INCIDENT REPORTING AND TRACKING REVIEW PANEL

PIRT MEETING SUMMARY

FEBRUARY 17, 2005

WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
7171 CLEANWATER LANE, BLDG 4, TUMWATER WASHINGTON

PANEL MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

NAME	AGENCY	PHONE
Maryanne Guichard, Chair	Department of Health (DOH)	(360) 236-3391
Lucy Harter, Coordinator	Department of Health	(360) 236-3356
Steven Gilbert	Practicing Toxicologist	(206) 527-0926
Alice Larson	General Public	(206) 463-9000
Maria Victoria Peeler	Department of Ecology	(360) 407-6704
William Robertson	Washington Poison Center (WPC)	(206) 517-2356
Gabrielle Toutonghi	Department of Labor and Industries	(360) 902-5478
Ann Wick	Department of Agriculture (WSDA)	(360) 902-2051

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Allan Felsot	Washington State University (WSU)	(509) 372-7365
Matthew Keifer	University of Washington (UW)	(206) 616-1452
Karen Ripley	Department of Natural Resources (DNR)	(360) 902-1691
Dorothy Tibbetts	Department of Health	(360) 236-3361
Vacant	Department of Fish & Wildlife	

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Stefan Dobratz	Department of Labor and Industries	(360) 902-5425
Cheryl Hanks	Department of Health	(360) 902-3365
Tom Gibbs	Department of Health	(360) 236-3060

Opening

Maryanne Guichard called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. The February meeting agenda was approved. The January 20, 2004 meeting summary was approved.

PIRT Review Panel Activities

2004 PIRT Annual Report Status

Panel members reviewed the draft report and submitted recommendations in January. DOH is currently incorporating the suggestions into the report.

Legislative Update on Pesticide-related bills

HB 1110 Pesticide application. Relates to recertification standards for private applicators of pesticides; specifically, increases the number of credits allowed to be taken per year from 8 to 12 to satisfy the 5 year requirement.

HB 1388 Pesticide use in schools. Relates to pesticide application in school facilities; limits the use high hazard pesticides.

HB 1863 Highly Toxic Pesticides – Requires substitution of less toxic substances or alternative practices where available.

SB 5030 Toxic exposure reporting. Creates a toxic exposure reporting and tracking review panel.
The panel discussed the morning's Senate hearing on the bill.
SB 5188 Children's environmental health. Establishes a children's environmental health protection advisory council and addresses children's environmental justice health issues.
SB 5388 Integrated Pest Management

Draft 2005 Action Recommendations

Discussion continued on the Panel action recommendations for 2005.

Discussion on proposed PIRT RCW Revisions

The discussion of proposals for revision of the RCW relating to the PIRT panel was postponed.

PIRT Report to Senate Agriculture Committee

Ann Wick and Dorothy Tibbetts presented information on PIRT activities and current pesticide issues to the Senate Agriculture Committee on January 27, 2005. Stefan Dobratz responded to questions concerning Labor and Industries. Future presentations to the committee should contain more on pesticide incident data.

Report on 2004 West Nile virus and mosquito control efforts

Tom Gibbs (DOH) gave an overview of the status of West Nile virus (WNV) cases nationwide, in Western states and in the Northwest. Washington State was the only state that did not have a positive WNV case in 2004. Washington WNV testing in 2004 included humans (23), horses (57), birds (553) and mosquito pools (1,015).

Agency Updates

Agriculture

Ann Wick briefed the panel on the work being done at WSDA regarding changing of the rule for air and airblast applications near schools, hospitals, and nursing homes. The proposed draft requires applicators near these establishments to notify them two days prior to an application of "Danger/Poison" pesticides.

The proposal was presented to the Pesticide Advisory Board on February 16th and the Board was asked for directions on how they would like the agency to proceed. The workgroup that is addressing the rule revision was divided on 1) if this proposal was sufficient or should the agency have stronger requirements and, 2) should the workgroup continue to meet to determine what further requirements might be necessary.

The Pesticide Advisory Board voted that WSDA should continue with the current proposal and not schedule any further meetings. WSDA will continue to refine the proposal and develop the required administrative information for rule making. WSDA is still open to other suggestions of a specific nature. Further input from the public can be presented at the public hearings as this rule development progresses.

Handouts on the upcoming pesticide disposal events, the Agriculture Safety Day Conference (March 9th in Yakima) and the Dealer Newsletter were given out.

Health

Two DOH Pesticide Program staff attended the Migrant Stream Forum in San Diego. Dorothy Tibbetts, Jim Vanderslice and Judy Bardin presented *Pesticide Illness Surveillance: Current*

Limitations and Future Directions. They described the findings of the DOH study and DOH actions in response to the findings.

Dorothy Tibbetts presented DOH progress on *Identifying Preventable Causes of Pesticide-related Illness among Agricultural Workers* at Winterfest in Baltimore. Winterfest is an annual meeting of states that monitor pesticide illness events. Staff from EPA Pesticides Division, Worker Protection Branch, also attended the meeting.

DOH is conducting surveillance investigations of possible pesticide exposures to the January 26-28, 2005 fire at the Wilbur Ellis Storage warehouse in Grandview.

DOH Pesticide Program is preparing a mailing of Pesticide Incident Summary Reports to health care providers and local health departments for the years 2000-2003.

Labor and Industries

Changes in Cholinesterase monitoring for 2005 will include: 1) changing the threshold for medical monitoring from 50 hours to 30 hours (as written in the original rule), 2) having the employer report the number of hours of exposure to the medical provider instead of L&I so that the information can more readily be paired with the lab results (as required by the legislature) and 3) follow-up investigations will be conducted by L&I Research instead of Compliance.

WPC

WPC is working with DOH to expand electronic reporting to include all WPC calls for syndrome surveillance. Currently DOH receives electronic reports of calls related to pesticides. Syndrome surveillance identifies food poisonings, carbon dioxide poisonings, and other multiple illness events. Syndrome surveillance is being conducted nationally with input reported every 20 minutes.

Future Meeting Agendas:

WSDA inspectors will discuss Worker Protection Standard education and outreach for Spanish-speaking applicators in March 2005.

Washington State attendees at the International Drift Conference (October, 2004 in Hawaii) will be asked to present information on the new technologies available for minimizing drift. Barb Morrissey (DOH), Allan Felsot (WSU) and Cliff Weed (WSDA) attended the conference.

Barb Morrissey will present DOH data on cases involving No Pest Strips and will lead a label discussion.

Future Meetings:

PIRT meets on the third Thursday of each month. All Seattle meetings will be held at the State Public Health Lab, 1601 NE 150th Street, Room S4. All Olympia meetings will be held at the Department of Health, 7171 Cleanwater Lane, Building 4 Conference Room.

March 17, 2005 – Olympia
April 21, 2005 – Seattle
May 19, 2005 – Olympia
June 16, 2005 – Olympia
July 21, 2005 – Seattle
August – No meeting
September 15, 2005 – Olympia

October 20, 2005 – Seattle
November 17, 2005 – Olympia
December – No meeting

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 a.m.

For additional information contact Lucy Harter at (360) 236-3356 or lucy.harter@doh.wa.gov